

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, MASS, PINT, VE, MX

SUBJECT: PROPOSED TRAVEL OF VENEZUELAN MINISTRY OF
DEFENSE OFFICIALS TO CONFER WITH U.S. BORDER PATROL.

1. COL. LUIS ANDRES CORDERO CODINA, OFFICE OF CIVIL AFFAIRS AND CIVIC ACTION, JOINT CHIEFS OF STATE OF THE VENEZUELAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, HAS EXPRESSED AN INTEREST TO THE MILGP IN HAVING TWO VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS (ONE MILITARY AND ONE CIVILIAN) VISIT AND TOUR U.S. BORDER PATROL FACILITIES ALONG THE MEXICAN BORDER. CORDERO IS A NATIONAL GUARD OFFICER SECONDED TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. HIS RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE BORDER CONTROL OPERATIONS. CORDERO HAS INFORMED THE MILGP THAT, IN FACT, THE GOV IS INTERESTED IN STUDYING HOW THE U.S. CONTROLS MEXICAN IMMIGRATION BECAUSE VENEZUELA FACES A SIMILAR PROBLEM WITH COLOMBIAN IMMIGRATION.

2. THROUGH THE LEGAL ATTACHE'S OFFICER HERE, WE HAVE RECEIVED CONFIRMATION FROM THE BORDER PATROL THAT COL. CORDERO SHOULD CONTACT MR. JOHN K. PUGH, EMPLOYEE DEVELOPMENT SPECIALIST, ROOM 6025, U.S. BORDER PATROL, 425 I STREET, N.W., WASHINGTON, DC 20536, TEL: (202) 376-8382. THE U.S. BORDER PATROL REQUESTS THAT COL. CORDERO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH MR. PUGH. CORDERO HAS NOT YET SET UP A SCHEDULE, PENDING APPROVAL FROM HIS SUPERIORS FOR HIS TRIP, ALTHOUGH

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WE ANTICIPATE A TRIP OF ABOUT TWO WEEKS DURATION BEFORE

THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR.

3. COMMENT/ACTION REQUEST: WE BELIEVE THAT THIS TRIP COULD PROVE BENEFICIAL TO THE VENEZUELAN MILITARY IN LEARNING ABOUT BORDER PATROL PROCEDURES AND HAVE, THEREFORE, FACILITATED CORDERO'S CONTACT WITH THE BORDER PATROL. WE PRESUME, AS A MATTER OF COURSE, THAT OUR BORDER PATROL OFFICIALS WORK CLOSELY WITH THEIR MEXICAN COUNTERPARTS AND THAT THE VENEZUELAN'S VISIT WOULD BE KNOWN TO THE MEXICANS. GIVEN THE SENSITIVE NATURE OF BORDER ISSUES IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS WITH MEXICO, HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS REGARDING THE FEASIBILITY OF VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS VISITING THE BORDER AREA. WHILE NO SCHEDULE HAS YET BEEN SET UP, SHOULD THE DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY OBJECTIONS, WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW BY OCTOBER 15 TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTIONS WITH THE VENEZUELAN'S.

VAKY

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